



PATENT  
Docket No. 56286US003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): PARTHASARATHY et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1751  
  )  
Serial No.: 09/841,264               ) Examiner: Unknown  
Confirmation No.: 5359                )  
  )  
Filed: 24 April 2001                )  
  )  
For: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE PROCESSING METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS  
THAT INCLUDE SURFACTANTS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
ATTN: BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified application for examination, please amend the application as follows:

**In the Drawings**

Please add new Figures: 2, 3, and 4.

**In the Specification**

Please insert the following paragraphs after the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, these paragraphs are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of one device according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of another device according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the device of FIG. 3 taken along line 4-4 in FIG. 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.